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SECOND YEAR No. 12 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1950 3c



SUMP AREA—located between the new Kettler Knolls Tract and the old one partially concealed with fallen leaves, underbrush, and dead branches of nearby trees, residents in the area have expressed fear for the lives and safety of children and animals. The sump is invisible from the road, and one must be nearly upon it in order to be aware of its existence. —Press Photo

Unguarded Oil Sumps Threat to Lives Here

Oil well owners in Torrance have failed in their promise to eliminate the danger of old sumps, and the death-traps still exist throughout the city, a

threat to the safety of humans and animals.

One such sump, its milky, sticky lethal mass covered with dead tree limbs and leaves so as to camouflage or hide it from view exists within a few hundred feet of the Municipal park where thousands of children play daily. It is within close proximity of nearly 800 new homes in the Kettler Knolls district, although not on the Kettler property.

Without a fence around it, with no danger signs to warn persons away, the sump looks like a flat piece of leaf-covered ground.

It is located just south of Cabrillo avenue and north of Sepulveda boulevard.

A man in the neighborhood called attention of the Press to this sump, because he fears for the life of children and animals.

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Walteria Zoning Is Aired

Proposed zoning plan for a large section of Walteria, was aired before the Torrance City Planning Commission last week, and no objections were raised.

E. A. Lloyd pointed out how projected zone changes keep pace with the district's change from an agricultural to a residential and industrial area.

Planned is the designation of a huge tract adjoining the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Enthusiastically viewed by members of the commission were plans by K. Sande Senness for a retail business area which he intends to develop on a triangular site at Newton St. and Pacific Coast Highway.

The commission is to conduct one more hearing and a final is to be heard by the city council.

Vehicle Fund For Torrance Allocated

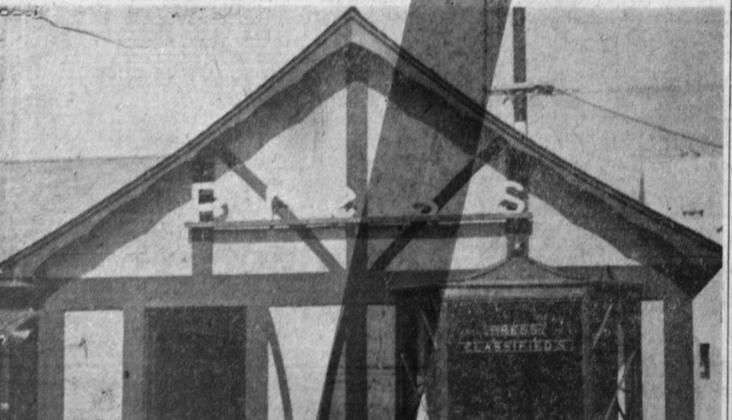
The City of Torrance has just received an allocation of \$42,481.92 "in lieu tax" funds representing its share of motor vehicle license fees collected between Dec. 1, 1949, and May 31, 1950. It is used for street work.

Other cities nearby collected as follows: Hawthorne, \$34,452.96; Hermosa Beach, \$27,198.17; Redondo Beach, \$51,825.51; Manhattan Beach, \$35,643.43; Gardena, \$31,589.99.

City Receives License Money

Allocation to Torrance of \$42,481.92 in motor vehicle license revenues was announced yesterday by State Controller Thomas H. Kuchel.

The sum covers the period from Dec. 1 through May 31. It is based upon 1948 census figures, since those for 1950 were not complete at the time of the allocation's compilation.



NEW PRESS OFFICE — Located at 1628 Gramercy Ave., (Next to Curries, and across from the Stadium theatre) is easily accessible to the downtown shopper. A cordial invitation to drop by is extended to all those who have not already visited the new Press Office. —Press Photo

in the area. One can be upon it, and submerged in the mire before he realizes the sump is there, according to the informant.

New Rules Prohibit 'Buzzing'

LOMITA — New sets of rules have been set up for pilots using the near-by Torrance Municipal Airport in an effort to end complaints of "buzzing" filed by more than 250 residents of the area.

The Civil Aeronautics Authority reported to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, who recently held a series of meetings to determine the extent of the danger caused by low-flying aircraft, that the changes were made to satisfy protesting residents.

The new rules will prohibit the use of a dirt landing strip at the east of the airport, which brought some landing planes too near homes.

A white line on the runway will keep planes higher at the east end of the field while making landings.

According to reports, Torrance city officials have been approached by the C. A. A. with the new rules and have accepted them.

Higher Oil Well Yield Sought Here

An experiment aimed at boosting production in the local oil field is under way by the Standard Oil Co. of California and the Superior Oil Co., authorities revealed this week.

As a joint venture, the two firms are attempting water injection by a well located on a Standard lease south of Sepulveda Blvd. and east of Hawthorne Blvd. This system, employed with success in other fields, injects water into oil bearing sands and thus forces a greater volume of crude petroleum to other wells.

Whether the method will improve lagging production here, however, probably will not be known for several months, it was indicated.

The local field, discovered almost 20 years ago, has reached the point where most wells are producing only a few barrels each day at depths of about 3700 feet. Probing of zones other than those few now producing have not proved promising.

The Pacific Electric has offered to rent to the city part of its right-of-way on Sartori avenue to be used for parking of cars, Councilman Nick Dralle told the City Council Tuesday night.

The Council instructed City Attorney C. D. Smith to draw up an ordinance creating a parking authority for Torrance to aid in working out the growing auto parking problem.

The Council also acted to reappoint a tax advisory committee to advise with the Council on the budget. New blood will be asked to take part in the committee, it was said.

The water department employs 15 men and four women at this time, working in all three districts. In 1947, they employed eight men and three women, one a part-time clerk.

Subdividers pay for all new installations of lines in their tracts, according to Stanger.

The water bond issue recommended by James M. Montgomery, consulting engineer, in his report, is practical and sound in all respects, according to Stanger.

The report calls for an issue of \$1,444,900 to finance a 10,000-gallon concrete reservoir to cost \$414,950; a 24-inch main from the reservoir to Kel Amo boulevard, estimated to cost \$286,150; a 1,000,000-gallon ground storage tank and pumping station at 174th street and Yukon avenue, \$54,350; water well at 226th street and Ocean avenue, \$15,000; new mains in North Torrance, \$157,000; replacement of central district mains, \$80,000. The purchase of California Water Service Company facilities, other local improvements, purchase of rights of way, and other expenses would make up the balance.

The new districts are revenue producers, Stanger said, and they are paying their way. Revenue from the Walteria district last year was \$33,093.46 from its rate of \$1.50 per 800 cubic feet of water a month. It has a .25 cents per 100 assessed valuation tax rate which produced \$10,830.75.

North Torrance revenue last year was \$47,325.06, from a \$1.10 tax water rate for 500 cubic feet. Its tax rate also is .25 cents per 100, and it produces \$12,823.99.

North Torrance used 23,367,674 cubic feet of metropolitan (Colorado river) water last year, and Walteria, 23,253,312 cubic feet.

The central district used 10,805,779 cubic feet of metropolitan water last year to augment its well supply which is limited to 2000 gallons per minute.

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2000 New Water Meters Limit FACILITIES LACK MAY STUNT GROWTH

Present water lines and facilities in Torrance are capable of handling only 2000 more water meters, Manager William Stanger, of the Municipal Water Department, said yesterday.

Asked by the Press as to the importance of the proposed water bond issue, he said that the expansion of Torrance will be retarded unless steps are taken at once to extend facilities.

Thus, Torrance growth will be checked at about 32,000 population, if no new facilities are added.

Without the bond issue, only piece-meal expansion would be possible, out of revenue and tax funds as provided each year, according to Stanger.

Growth of the Water department was told in figures to show how the facilities approach a state of exhaustion.

There are now 4485 domestic water meters in Torrance as compared with 2591 in 1947. There are 73 industrial meters compared with 63 in 1947, and 85 irrigation meters compared with 56 in 1947.

11 NEW DISTRICTS
Growth of the outlying districts of Torrance is told in consumption figures. There were no water mains in Southwest and North Torrance a few years ago, except those of a few private water companies.

Now Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria) uses 1,500,000 gallons a day; Municipal Water District No. 2 (North Torrance) uses 1,725,000 gallons a day, while Municipal Improvement District No. 1 (the original water district) uses 3,000,000 gallons a day. Thus, the two outlying districts use more water than the original central district.

There now are 353,760 feet of water mains in service in Torrance.

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GROUND BREAKING for one of the biggest tracts of the year took place last Thursday, with developers and local officials participating in the ceremony. Pictured from left to right are: Louis Lesser, Albert Feldman, Mrs. Rayonette Brown (representing the home owners in that area), Mayor Bob L. Haggard; Mrs. Albert Feldman, and Abe Manalis. Construction is expected to begin immediately.

Site For Element'ry Acquired

Acquisition of a site for an elementary school to serve the Hollywood Riviera district has been made following more than a year of delay, it was announced Saturday by Emmett W. Ingram, schools business manager.

Ingram said that he had been informed by the county council's office that the last necessary signature for purchase of a 10-acre site in the C. N. Ellinwood estate had been obtained and that the transaction had entered escrow.

It will be at least a year, however, before a school will be ready for occupancy in the area, Ingram stated.

Surveys, preparation of plans and letting of a contract will take at least six months, he said. Youngsters in the area are now attending the Seaside School near-by.

Chosen to coordinate the annual Red Feather campaign for 1950 health, welfare, youth and veterans services by the Harbor Board of Welfare Federation of Los Angeles Area, Levy and his vice chairman B. A. Devine, manager of Southern Counties Gas Company, San Pedro, already have secured the majority of needed city chairman.

Donald Armstrong, who has his law offices in Torrance, will serve for Palos Verdes; Paul Colaluco, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Gardena; Thurman H. Porter, insurance, San Pedro; and Noble Waite, principal, Banning High School, Wilmington. The city chairmen have been selected because of outstanding service in previous Community Chest and other community projects manned by volunteers.

Both Levy and Sears are members of the Harbor Board, which heads the decentralization program for the Chest in local communities, with full authority to organize and operate the annual Red Feather appeals, and in matters concerning operation of local Community Chest Service Centers.

Under Levy's direction, Harbor Area has achieved the distinction of leading the entire metropolitan district in its early campaign organization.

County Bans
LOMITA — The board of supervisors this week banned sale of newspapers and other periodicals in "areas regularly used by traffic" in unincorporated county territory.

Two Injured In Auto Crash
A 6-year-old boy and his grandmother suffered slight injuries in a two-car collision at 190th St. and Western Ave. last week-end, police reported.

Treated at Torrance Medical Center for cuts and bruises were Daniel Palmerlee and Mrs. Marguerite Morst, 65, both of 23102 Huber St., passengers in an auto driven by Curtis D. Palmerlee, 31, of the Huber St. address.

CHURCHES, P.-T.A. GET FAST ACTION

After months of dilly-dallying, Torrance City Council, Tuesday night banned marble games from the city.

Thus, Torrance joins other California cities which have ruled the games, used openly for gambling, as illegal. Punchboards also were banned.

It took the combined efforts of the Press, the only newspaper which gave any publicity to the move to ban the games, the Torrance Parent-Teacher Council, the Torrance Council of Churches, the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee, Chief of Police John Stroh, and the backbone of a couple of members of the City Council to bring an end to the free reign the games have held in this city for years.

Gambling interests tried to "buy off" the campaign, but their money was not accepted.

The ban is effective immediately.

Letters were read asking that the games be banned as illegal gambling devices from Mrs. E. S. Moon, president of the Torrance P.T.A. Council, Elmer Hull, secretary of the Torrance Council of Churches, Mrs. Grace Wright, moderator of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee.

Councilman George Powell moved adoption of the ordinance, and Councilman Willys Blount seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Parents, ministers and others objected to the open gambling on the marble games, particularly the one balls, and claimed that children were allowed to play the devices and spend their lunch money on them.

Meanwhile, the board has approved a contract approximating \$24,500 for painting the interior and exterior of the present high school.

The successful bidder, Strand & Son, is due to begin the inside work next week with completion due by the resumption of class sessions in September. Some outside work may be yet under way after school begins again, it was stated.

Few Changes Required In Air Landings
Only a few improvements are necessary in the approach and landing pattern at Torrance Municipal Airport to give residents in the area maximum safety, according to a letter from Max I. Black, field representative of the California Aeronautics Commission.

In general, however, the pattern now in use at the field is satisfactory. Black stated in a communication to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

A schedule of improvements for operations procedure is being compiled for submission to the city council and the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

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